

feel it to be their duty to join me in every effort in order to

/ save France : urge them to second me in my endeavors." It was nightfall, on the 20th of June, when Napoleon approached the walls of Eocroi, where everybody expected he

11 would stop and repose himself. A considerable part of the population of that town gathered on the ramparts and saluted him with the old cry of "Vive l'Empereur/" but he only staid to change horses, and then posted onward. In his critical circumstances a single night, nay, a single hour, gained was of the very highest importance.

[ANNEX TO THE PRECEDING

CHAPTER.] NARRATIVE OF THE BATTLE
OF WATERLOO.

BY M. FLEURY DE CHABOULOET, EX-SECRETARY TO THE
EMPEROR

NAPOLÉON.

THE plan of the campaign adopted by the Emperor was worthy of the courage of the French and of the high reputation of their Chief. Information given by agents employed by the Duke of Otranto (Fouche) had made known the position of the Allies in all its particulars. Napoleon knew that the army of Wellington was dispersed over the country, from the borders of the sea to Nivelles, that the right of the Prussians rested on Charleroi, and that the rest of their army was stationed in *echelon* indefinitely as far as the Rhine. He judged that the lines of the enemy were too much extended, and that it would be practicable for him; by riot giving them time to close up, to separate the two armies, and fall in succession on their troops thus taken by surprise. For this purpose he had united all his cavalry into a single body of 20,000 horse, with which he intended to dart like lightning into the midst of the enemy's cantonments. If victory favored this bold stroke the centre of our army would occupy Brussels on the second day, while the corps of the right and of the left drove the Prussians to the Meuse, and the English to the Scheldt. Belgium being conquered, he would have armed the malcontents, and marched from success to success as far as the Rhine.

On the 14th> during the night, our army, the presence

of which the Emperor "had taken care to conceal, was to commence its march; nothing indicated that the enemy had foreseen our irruption, and everything promised us important results.... It was at this time that Napoleon was informed that General Bourmont, Colonels Clouet and Villoutreys, and two other officers, had just deserted to the enemy. He knew from Marshal Ney that M. de Bourmont, at the time of the occurrences at Besançon,